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RECENT LITERATURE.

ANDERSON'S MANDALAY TO MOMIEN.¹—Mandalay is the capital of Burma, and Momiën an important town in the province of Yunnan, Western China. The two British expeditions of which Dr. Anderson gives a narrative was for the purpose of establishing commercial relations between the British in Burma and the rich provinces of Western China. Both missions were repulsed and entirely unsuccessful, but much information concerning these remote regions was collected by Dr. Anderson, and has been given to the public in this handsome volume. The population is a motley one, the Burmese intermingling with the Chinese, though both live in different quarters of the same towns, and both are confined closely to their walls and fortifications by the fierce hill tribes on the border.

Few notes on the natural history of the country have been recorded, though "a full and illustrated report is in active preparation." The famous tame fish of "the little rocky island of Theehadaw, which boasts the only stone pagoda in Burma, and is resorted to by numbers of pilgrims at the great Buddhist festival in March," are briefly mentioned in the following words: "Having supplied ourselves with rice and plantains, the boatmen called 'Tit-tit-tit.' Soon the fish appeared, about fifty yards off, and after repeated cries they were alongside, greedily devouring the offering of food. In their eagerness they showed their uncouth heads and great part of their backs, to which patches of gold leaf, laid on by recent devotees, still adhered. So tame were they that they suffered themselves to be stroked, and seemed to relish having their long feelers pulled. One fellow, to whom a plantain skin was thrown, indignantly rejected it, and dived in disgust."

While Burma is rich in ruined temples and towns, the prehistoric remains are also abundant. Stone celts are often turned up by the plow in Yunnan as with us. "A large number of those purchased are small, beautifully cut forms, with few or no signs of use, and made of some variety of jade; but there is no reason to doubt the authenticity of the larger forms which were brought to us. Bronze celts are also found, but are valued at their weight in gold; we managed, however, to purchase one at Manwyne on the return journey. It belongs to the socketed type of celts without wings. The composition of the bronze is the same as that of the celts found in northern Europe: tin, 10; copper, 90."

The narrative has been prepared with evident care, and will be useful for comparison with the relations of the recent French expedition to

¹ *Mandalay to Momiën*. A Narrative of the Two Expeditions to Western China of 1868 and 1875, under Col. E. B. Sladen and Col. Horace Browne. By JOHN ANDERSON, M. D., etc. With Maps and Illustrations. London. 1876. 8vo, pp. 479. Macmillan & Co. \$7.50.

Cochin China, of which finely illustrated accounts are appearing in *Globus*, the early numbers of which for the present year also contain some fine views of Yunnan.

THE GEOLOGICAL RECORD FOR 1874.¹—This useful work is apparently a complete bibliography of all works, papers, and notes, on geology, mineralogy, and palæontology, published during the year 1874. It will be of course indispensable to American laborers in these fields, especially to those who do not have access to large libraries. The work seems to have been prepared with thoroughness, as there are twenty-seven contributors besides the editor, and it is accompanied by an index. The Record is divided into eight sections, namely, Stratigraphical and Descriptive Geology, Physical Geology, Applied and Economic Geology, Petrology, Mineralogy, Palæontology, Maps and Sections, Miscellaneous and General. Brief summaries of the most important works and essays give it a great value to the working geologist. There are more than two thousand entries.

JOHNSON'S CYCLOPÆDIA.²—With Professors F. A. P. Barnard and A. Guyot as editors-in-chief of this compact and useful cyclopædia, the reader may be assured that the articles upon scientific topics are reliable, accurate, and fresh. The associate editors are twenty-seven in number, embracing several of our leading scientists, and there are five assistant editors, whose names are well known in scientific and literary circles. The editors claim that of the articles "not fewer than two or three hundred, at the smallest estimate, are articles upon topics of interest in science, letters, and constructive art, of which the titles do not appear in any contemporary work of the kind; many of them having been, in fact, suggested by the recent progress of scientific discovery or literary research." We notice, in looking hastily through the second volume, articles by the following scientists: Barnard, Chandler, Cooke, Dawson, De Gubernatis, Gill, Goodale, Gray, Guyot, Hitchcock, Hunt, Packard, Riley, Verrill, Willey, Woodward, and Yule.

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALOLOGY.—During the last few months several important papers have appeared relating to the mammals of North America, chiefly by Dr. Elliott Coues and Dr. Theodore Gill. It is now several years since Dr. Coues began to divide his labors between the North American mammals and birds, his attention having formerly been given almost exclusively to the latter. The first general results of his work upon the mammals appeared in the form of a Synopsis of the Muridæ of North America.³ This brochure of

¹ *The Geological Record for 1874. An Account of Works on Geology, Mineralogy, and Palæontology, published during the Year.* Edited by WILLIAM WHITTAKER. London: Taylor and Francis. 1875. 8vo, pp. 397.

² *Johnson's New Universal Cyclopædia. A Scientific and Popular Treasury of Useful Knowledge. Illustrated with Maps, Plans, and Engravings.* In 4 vols. Vol. ii. 1876. L—Lichens. Royal 8vo, pp. 1767. New York: A. J. Johnson and Son.

³ *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, 1874.*